

Rural Expansion of Afghanistan's Community-based Healthcare (REACH)

Sector:	Health
SO-2:	Create Conditions for Stability
Program Name:	REACH
Prime Implementer:	Management Sciences for Health
Duration:	May 2003 – May 2006

USAID's maternal and child health program, REACH, has been working very closely with the Ministry of Public Health to provide essential services to the Afghan people.

Delivery of Quality Health Services in Collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)

- Twenty-five non-governmental organizations (NGOs) awarded \$75 million of grants and in kind contributions to provide health services to the most underserved populations of Afghanistan by implementing two standard packages of services – the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS).
- Coverage of health services exceeds some 4.8 million people in Afghanistan, primarily through local NGO grants. In REACH provinces, USAID-supports increased access of health services to 63% of the population (75% when combined with the coordinated efforts of other donors in those provinces).
- Once all agreements are fully operational, it is expected that 322 health facilities will be supported by REACH grants: 178 Basic Health Centers, 128 Comprehensive Health Centers, 13 District Hospitals, and 4 Provincial Hospitals. These facilities will provide coverage of health services to some 7.2 million people.
- Every month an average of 989 patients are served at each health facility; 70% of patients are women and children under 5 years of age.
- Over US \$1,000,000 of quality essential drugs distributed to NGO grantees.
- Four Institutes for Health Science Midwifery Training Programs (located in Jalalabad, Herat, Kabul and Mazar) and 6 Community Midwifery Training Programs (established in Badakhshan, Bamyan, Jawzjan, Khost, Paktia, and Takhar) supported.
- Provincial Hospitals in Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika and Khost are supported.

Health Training and Education

- IEC/BCC materials have been developed and disseminated for all USAID-supported health facilities in malaria, control of diarrheal disease, personal hygiene, and birth spacing
- Over 2,000 Community Health Workers (CHWs) trained and active in health facilities. Approximately 1,000 are currently undergoing training
- Forty-nine midwives have graduated and over 700 women are enrolled in 18-month community and hospital midwifery education programs.
- Eight curriculums have been developed and retraining courses have begun for doctors, nurses, and midwives. Thus far, 142 clinicians have been refreshed in Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI).
- Over 1,300 women enrolled in accelerated literacy programs focused on health. Women and older girls will meet minimum standards of education needed to enter into the health professions.
- All BPHS implementers have integrated community mapping – a tool used by semi-literate or illiterate CHWs to monitor the health behavior and practice of their community – into their community-based outreach.

Building Capacity in the Health System of Afghanistan in Collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)

- Development of the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS) a policy to set standards for hospital care to complement the previously developed, Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS).
- Provincial Health Planning methodology developed and implemented in 16 provinces across Afghanistan.
- Health worker Testing & Certification System established for nurses, midwives, vaccinators and laboratory technicians.
- Health Management Information System (HMIS) developed and implemented through NGOs, Provincial Public Health Offices and at the central Ministry of Public Health (MOPH). Eighty-five percent of REACH facilities are providing HMIS reports.
- A Generic Drug Law, Health Law for Private Pharmacies and the Private Drug Wholesalers Law have been written and submitted to the Ministry of Justice with the support and technical assistance of REACH.
- National Policy on Cost Sharing for Sustainability developed to focus on health care user fees and financing.
- Over 2,500 health managers from the MOPH and health-focused NGOs around the country trained.



- Ongoing provision of technical assistance to the MOPH and its Provincial Public Health Offices in all elements of health systems and services. REACH representatives sit on 14 task forces and working groups within the MOPH in addition to the Technical Advisory Group and the Consultative Group on Health & Nutrition.

Social Marketing:

- More than 150,000 bottles of locally produced and bottled *Clorin* sold, providing 150 million liters of safe drinking water.
- Distribution and sale of 1,481,928 *No. 1* condoms and over 200,000 *OK Contraceptives* – both injectable and oral – for birth spacing.
- Seventy-eight public service announcements on health messages created and delivered (39 in Pashtu and 39 in Dari).
- A new social marketing product, *Safenite* bed nets to prevent malaria, has been recently introduced.